

Message Text

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R 180859Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5283

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 4585

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, EG

SUBJECT: SYRIAN SPEAKERS RENEW CRITICISM OF EGYPT ON FIFTH
ANNIVERSARY OF ASAD'S ASSUMPTION OF POWER

1. SUMMARY: VIRTUALLY EVERY SYRIAN SPEAKER, WHILE LAUDING
ACHIEVEMENTS OF PRES. ASAD'S CORRECTIVE MOVEMENT, ALSO FOUND
OPPORTUNITY TO ATTACK EGYPT FOR SIGNING SINAI AGREEMENT.
ASAD HIMSELF DID NOT DELIVER ADDRESS. END SUMMARY.

2. HOST OF PROMINENT PUBLIC FIGURES PRAISED REGIME'S
ACHIEVEMENTS DURING WEEKEND FESTIVITIES CELEBRATING
NOV. 16 FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF PRES. ASAD'S ASSUMPTION
OF POWER, WITH NOTABLE EXCEPTION OF ASAD HIMSELF, WHO DID
NOT DELIVER ADDRESS. BAATH PARTY NATIONAL COMMAND ISSUED
STATEMENT IN WHICH IT CONDEMNED "ZIONIST ENEMY, AMERICAN IM-
PERIALISM AND CERTAIN DEFEATIST AND CAPITULATIVE ARAB FORCES
STRIVING TO REDUCE ARAB CAUSE TO MERE DISPUTE OVER
BORDERS AND OCCUPIED KILOMETERS OF LAND BY SIGNING
BILATERAL, PARTIAL AND SEPARATE AGREEMENTS WITH ENEMY.
EGYPTIAN REGIME'S AGREEMENT WITH ZIONIST ENEMY CONSTITUTES IN
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SUBSTANCE RECOGNITION OF ENEMY AND REMOVAL OF EGYPT AND ITS

ARMED FORCES FROM NATIONAL BATTLE AND ACQUIESCENCE IN AMERICAN PRESENCE IN AREA. (WE DEPLORE) SUSPICIOUS ATTEMPTS BY ZIONISM, IMPERIALISM AND EGYPTIAN REGIME TO CAST DOUBT ON TRUE POSITION OF OUR PARTY AND GIVE IMPRESSION THAT WE ON VERGE OF CONCLUDING IDENTICAL OR SIMILAR AGREEMENT."

3. REGIONAL COMMAND MEMBER FADEL AL-ANSARI WROTE IN NOV. 15 AL-BAATH THAT "SERIOUS SETBACK IS THREATENING ARAB STRUGGLE, A SETBACK REPRESENTED BY CATASTROPHIC AGREEMENT SIGNED BY EGYPTIAN REGIME WITH ZIONIST ENEMY AND EQUAL IN IMPORTANCE TO FIRST DISASTER IN PALESTINE BECAUSE IT CONSECRATES IT AND IS JUDICIAL AND CONTRACTUAL RECOGNITION OF ITS RESULTS." HE CONCLUDED THAT "WE REFUSE CATEGORICALLY ANY AGREEMENT, EFFORT OR TALKS WHOSE LIMITED FRAMEWORK WILL NOT ACHIEVE GOALS OF THE JUST ARAB STRUGGLE."

4. DEFMIN MUSTAFA TLAS IN SPEECH TO ARMED FORCES CASTIGATED "SOME TRAITORS" WHO HE OPINED WOULD NEVER BE PERMITTED TO "STAF ARAB NATION IN ITS MOST SACRET SPOT, PALESTINE." PARIMIN AYYUBI, OPENING NEW RAILWAY LINE IN LATAKIA, PLEDGED TO "CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE TO TOPPLE SINAI AGREEMENT." FONMIN KHADDAM IN BRIEF ADDRESS TOLD DAMASCUS RALLY THAT CORRECTIVE MOVEMENT HAS NOT UNDERRATED IMPORTANCE OF WORLD OPINION IN CONFLICT WITH IMPERIALISM AND ZIONISM (IN CONTRAST TO ISOLATION OF PREVIOUS REGIME OF JADID AND ATASSI). HE ADDED THAT "MOST CONSPICUOUS DEFECT WE CONFRONT IS GREAT CRACK CREATED BY SINAI AGREEMENT." KHADDAM ALSO PROMISED THAT SYRIA WOULD HELP LEBANON PREVENT ATTEMPTS TO DISMEMBER IT. ARAB SOCIALIST UNION LEADER FAWZI KAYYALI AT SAME PODIUM COMMENTED ON NEED TO CORRECT COURSE OF ARAB STRUGGLE AFTER SIGNING OF "HUMILIATING SINAI AGREEMENT."

5. MOST WELCOME NEWS OF ANNIVERSARY WAS ANNOUNCEMENT OF SALARY RAISE FOR ALL GOVT. WORKERS AND RETIRED CIVIL SERVANTS, GRADUATED TO GIVE MAXIMUM BENEFIT
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TO LEAST-PAID EMPLOYEES.
PELLETREAU

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NNN

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